

THE LESSONS GOD WISHES US TO LEARN

Dear God's Family,

We could say that we are living a crucial historical moment in the world and in the Church, on account of this pandemic situation. I say crucial because we have a great opportunity in the world as citizens and in the Church as Christians, to learn a great lesson we should not ignore.

As citizens we are already observing some good fruits as a result of the pandemic: more awareness and concerns for our neighbours' wellbeing, increased sense of responsibility, willingness to abide by the rules and guidelines set up by the civil authorities for each other's safety; greater appreciation and gratitude for the front lines workers, who selflessly perform their duties even heroically for the common good; nations are trying to help each other in providing much needed medical supplies wherever they are needed, etc.

The lesson for the world: it is possible to live in peace and harmony, to help each other, especially in times of need!

As Christians, the lessons we can learn from the pandemic situation are multiple: while our churches are closed, we are getting a tiny glimpse of the reality the persecuted Christians face on a daily basis, year after year, in their own countries.

*We are also reminded of those countries which were, up to forty years ago, under atheist Communist regime, like Ukraine and Russia, where Christians were not allowed to openly profess their religion. They chose to practice and live their Faith **underground, within their respective families**, who made it their duty to pass on the Faith to the younger generation despite the absence of Priests! Something for us to PONDER and EMULATE.*

WHAT LESSON DOES THE LORD WANT US TO LEARN?

*I am very confident that the **PAUSE mode** forced upon us by Covid19 is being used by our good Lord to remind us to not take for granted His Gifts: the gift of freedom to practice our Faith, the gift of having Priests who can regularly celebrate Holy Mass, and offer us the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, the gift of proclamation and teaching of God's Word, the open churches and chapels for Eucharistic adoration, etc.*

*Hopefully, when this crisis is over, we will have learned that **some things and habits must change, that our Christianity needs renewal and needs to be authentic and visible**, that our Faith is not a ritual or social event, but serious matter to be lived, so much so to want to turn our families into "**Home Cenacles**" (Acts 2:42) and our homes in "**Domestic churches**" (St. John Paul II), where children learn to pray and to love God.*

*This second Sunday of Easter is called **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**, according to the wishes of Jesus himself, which He expressed directly to St. Faustina Kowalska in 1931. Through this feast day Jesus wanted to remind the world that no one is exempt from receiving His forgiveness from any sins, and from experiencing His merciful Love, particularly through the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and eternal Life with Him after this earthly life is over.*

*There..., Jesus has provided all the means for us to turn around and **begin a new chapter**, and live our own new transformed, **resurrected life**.*

Deacon Diego

